

Minutes of the Meeting of the Burton-by-Lincoln Parish Council
Held at the Burton Estate Club on Tuesday 14th March 2006

Present: John Copeland (Chairman), Gary Lisseman, Steve Chadderton, Peter Russon, Joan Osterfield, Eric Bell, Gillian Jolly.

In Attendance. Gordon Hickmore (Clerk), Cllr Sarah Anyan-Needham, Cllr Ray Sellars, Cllr David Cotton,

Also Present: - Mr Peter & Mr David Coates, Mr & Mrs P Cook, Mr & Mrs M Hakin, Mr J Moore, Mrs A Copeland, Mr R Dowson

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2005 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

2. Clerk's Report

2.1 Fly Tipping. (Para 2.1) West Lindsey was unwilling to proceed against the owner of the packaging dumped in Fen Lane by an identified offender. The Chairman reported that he had written to the WLDC Chief Executive expressing the Parish Council's dissatisfaction with the lack of support. It was the Council's view that the owner should be issued with a fixed fine for failing to ensure the rubbish was disposed of correctly.

2.2 Burton Estate Club. The Estate Club AGM was held on 3rd March. The Club is still seeking grants for the improvements and is seeking planning permission to extend the building. A great deal of effort had been put into organising the monthly club events which had proved very successful.

2.3 LCC Free Trees Scheme. The clerk reported he had collected the free trees from Horncastle but the weather had prevented planting. Gillian Jolly and Peter Russon agreed that the trees could be planted on the boundary between the church field bordering Main St and the Abbots View stables.

2.4 Road Safety. Ray Sellars reported that pressure continues to extend the speed limit from Main St to New Farm. The temporary traffic calming signs installed by the Road Safety Partnership were considered to be poorly positioned and were generally ignored by motorists. The Parish Council agreed to continue to seek funding for a mobile vehicle activated speed sign in cooperation with other councils in the area.

3. Finance

3.1 Parish Balance. The Clerk submitted the draft income and expenditure account for 2005-2006. Total expenditure was £3138 and income £3100. The expenditure over income for the year is estimated at £38 although the Council had budgeted for a deficit of £150. The total balance including cash and the deposit and current accounts is £2793. The draft annual balance and expenditure for the year is attached at Annex A.

3.2 Authorisation of Expenditure. The follow expenditure was authorised by the Parish Council:

Staples	£35.01
Clerk's salary	£317.73
Lincs Association of Local Councils	£122

3.3 Parish Precept. WLDC has published the Council tax rate for 2006-2007. A Band D property will be paying £1244 in Council tax, an increase of just under 5% on the previous year. The Parish Precept for Burton is £9.62 or 0.8% of the total tax, and remains one of the lowest rates of all parishes in West Lindsey. In comparison the rates for Welton and Nettleham are £44 and £49 respectively.

4. Planning

4.1 Planning Applications. No new planning applications have been received since the last meeting. The following applications have been approved or a decision is awaited.

4.1.1 M05/P/0998 Dunster Lodge. No decision had been received on the application to convert a redundant farm building at Dunster Lodge to a holiday cottage.

4.1.2 M05/P/1205 Georgian House. No decision has been received on the application for listed building consent to block an internal doorway and remove a chimney stack.

4.1.3 M05/P/1189 Units 11/12 Site A Burton Waters. The application to build a new glazed entrance porch to the side of units 11/12 at Burton Waters was approved by WLDC.

4.2 Local Plan Inspector's Report.

4.2.1 The Clerk outlined the recommendations contained in the Local Plan Inspector's Report published in December, and the decisions reached by the West Lindsey Planning Committee at a meeting in January. A public meeting was held in the Estate Club on 13th February attended by the WLDC Local Plan team, who explained the reasoning behind the objections raised by the District Council on sections of the report. The main area of concern was the Inspector's recommendation to include "special needs residential accommodation" in the planning criteria for BW (M) 3. The recommendation was rejected by WLDC on the grounds that the term was too vague and the area did not meet the planning criteria for special needs accommodation.

4.2.3 At the public meeting, Andrew Stow, the chief executive of HICA, a company specialising in retirement homes, outlined a proposal to build a retirement village on the hotel and conference site next to the David Lloyd club. This would include 125 retirement homes for over 55s and a special nursing facility which would include a dementia unit. While there was support for the principle of retirement homes, there was concern over the inclusion of a dementia unit in the plans.

4.2.4 In a wide ranging discussion involving members of the Burton Waters community, the Parish Council agreed with the decision of West Lindsey to oppose the Inspector's recommendation for "special needs residential accommodation" as it was unclear as to what type of development would be allowed. However, the Council felt there was a need to review the allowable developments on BW3 as it was unlikely that a buyer would be found to develop the site allocated for the hotel and conference centre. This site of 3.6h is at the gateway to BW3 and if it remains undeveloped, it would blight the overall development of the holiday complex. It was generally agreed that a well designed retirement home scheme would provide balance and benefit the community as a whole.

Resolved: That the Parish Council opposes the recommendation of the inspector to include "special needs residential accommodation" but seeks to widen the criteria for the allowable developments on BW3 to include retirement homes for over 55s.

4.3 The Local Plan and The Local Development Framework. The Clerk explained that the new Local Plan will be adopted in July 2006 but it will become redundant in 2007 when it is replaced by the Local Development Framework (LDF). The problem with the current planning system is that the Local Plan is a very expensive and time consuming process which rapidly becomes outdated. The LDF is a rolling programme which does away with the need for periodic reviews and introduces flexibility into the planning system. There is far greater emphasis placed on public consultation and this is set out in the "Draft Statement of Community Involvement" A copy of the WLDC statement has been circulated to Councillors. The new local plan will, however, form part of the LDF and the plan will dovetail into the Lincolnshire and Regional plans.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Correspondence received included the following items:

Area forums - Lincoln fringe meeting 23rd March Ingham - The Clerk agreed to attend
WLDC Town and Parish Assembly 28th March – meeting postponed
Calor best kept villages competition – The Council decided not to enter the competition
LCC Street lighting – grants – Not applicable to the parish
LCC Capital Grant Aid – information passed to Burton estate club
The Big lottery fund – projects – information passed to the estate club
Funding forum 6th April Caenby Corner - notice displayed on parish notice board
LCC Customer care centre - details to be included in the Burton Journal
Eat Midlands Regional plan – Information only
Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership - attendance at parish events - Information only
WLDC joint budget consultation meeting - Information
LALC Training courses – details passed to councillors
Lincolnshire Playing Fields Association – request for funding – Not accepted
WLDC Local Plan review – see item 4.1
WLDC Street Cleaning - request for clean up of A57
Victim support – request for funding – not accepted
Highways – priorities – information only
LCC Highways - retirement of Stuart Christie – The parish to write
Burton - defective drain – see item 8.1
WLDC Citizens advice bureau – request for funding – Not accepted
CPRE – information only
Standards committee – Code of Conduct – details passed to councillors
Draft statement of community involvement – Lincoln and WLDC – details circulated to councillors
Letter Mr & Mrs Hakin re local plan – see item 4.1
WLDC information booklets – for information only
BWRA invitation to AGM 22 March - Clerk and Vice Chairman agreed to attend.

6. The Future of Local Government – Empowerment and the Deal for Devolution

6.1 The Clerk stated that in July 2004, the Government launched a debate on a new vision for local government. A number of discussion documents have been published and a White Paper is expected to be published in the summer. A recent speech by David Miliband MP, Minister of Communities and Local Government, outlined the principles driving the future shape of local governance. In his speech the Minister argued that power should be devolved away from central government to local government and beyond to neighbourhoods and individual citizens. The process by which this is achieved will be the subject of considerable debate but the intention is to devolve more power into the hands of local communities.

6.2 Currently there are many layers of government and there is a need to reduce the number of authorities to cut bureaucracy and improve efficiency. The Police, Fire, Education and the NHS are all in the process of reorganisation, and local government is no exception. In Lincolnshire for instance there are 7 District Councils, each providing services for a small rural population. Many functions overlap with the services provided by the County Council, but the councils are too small and lack resources to make much impression at parish level. One proposal is for the abolition of the County and District Councils, and the formation of 2 or 3 unitary authorities that will be responsible for providing all services within an area. We could see an enlarged Lincoln unitary authority with North and South Lincolnshire authorities covering the rest of the county. More resources would be devolved to parishes which would then require much greater commitment from the elected representatives and parishioners. This, it is hoped, has the potential to reinvigorate town and parish councils.

6.3 The Clerk conceded that many of the principles behind the changes were difficult to grasp but he would circulate a copy of the speech so that councillors were better informed on the process.

7. Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting

7.1 John Copeland announced that he would not be seeking re election as Chairman at the Annual Parish Meeting on 9th May. He stated that he had served as Chairman for 10 years and it was now time for another person to take on that responsibility. Eric Bell stated, reluctantly, that he would be willing to serve as Chairman if nominated.

Dates and times of meetings for 2006 were agreed as follows.

Tuesday 9th May 6.30pm - followed by the Annual Parish Meeting 7.45pm

Tuesday 11th July 7.30pm, Tuesday 10th October 7.30pm Tuesday 5th December 7.30pm

8. AOB

8.1 Burton Journal The Spring Edition of the Burton Journal will be published on 1st April.

8.2 Burton Wellhead. Part of the Wellhead Arch had been damaged by frost. Mr Paul Atkin, the Cathedral stonemason who had completed the original repairs, had inspected the damage and agreed to provide an estimate for repairs. The cause is not known, but the stone appears porous and water is held within the stone causing it to fracture in a hard frost.

8.3 Defective Drain – Main St. The defective land drain in Main St has been the subject of a number of complaints and the problem has been investigated by the WLDC Environmental Protection Officer. The drain serves several households and responsibility for the outflow has been disputed. The Environmental Protection Section has now served a legal notice on the person responsible. The Notice requires the defective drain to be repaired or replaced in a way that restores the free flowing drain and to reinstate the drive of Cedar House. The order expires on 28th March by which time all remedial works are expected to be completed.

J Copeland

Chairman